

tain list, unless some one can show a specimen of that species from the region in question.—EDWARD L. GREENE, *Creswell, Colorado*.

THE MICHIGAN TRILLIUM described in the July number of the GAZETTE I have found here several times, and always associated with *T. grandiflorum*. Judging by the company it keeps I long since regarded it as only a freak of *T. grandiflorum*. During the spring specimens of it were sent to me from Lockport, N. Y., by Prof. A. B. Evans, and afterward that gentleman informed me he had again found it, and that it grew from the roots of *T. grandiflorum*. It is not entitled to rank as a variety, being, as Mr. Smith says, a *lusus naturæ*.—

S. H. WRIGHT, *Penn Yan, N. Y.*

MELANTHIUM VIRGINICUM.—An article in a recent number of the BOT. GAZETTE on *Melanthium Virginicum*, brings to my mind that, about 12 years ago, it was abundant in this vicinity, but is now rarely seen. The reason of this is that the places where it grew have been cultivated and grazed so as to destroy it. This summer I found it, May 1, in Greenwood Co., Kansas, very abundant on a southern exposure on sandstone hills. Again after the middle of June I observed it quite abundant on line of Missouri and Kansas at west line of Cass Co., Mo., apparently having just bloomed.—G. C. BROADHEAD, *Pleasant Hill, Mo.*

THE FLOATING FERN.—It was announced a year ago that sterile specimens of the *Ceratopteris thalictroides* had been found in Southern Florida. I am now able to offer complete specimens of this extraordinary plant as part of my fourth fascicle of Southern plants, and also of a fascicle of twelve Floridian Ferns which I have prepared to meet the wants of numerous applicants. The specimens for these sets have been prepared with much care, nearly all having roots, without which specimens of Floridian ferns are quite incomplete. The giant *Aerostichum* is represented by sections of the sterile and fertile fronds.

The *Ceratopteris* being extremely variable, I shall give two or three plants for a specimen and in each specimen shall endeavor to illustrate its peculiar mode of propagation, which is by marginal buds, exactly as in *Bryophyllum*. These arise from old sterile fronds, very rarely from fertile ones, the latter being erect, while the former mostly float. From Prof. Eaton's article relative to this fern it would be inferred that the *Ceratopteris* roots like *Sparganium* and *Pontederia*. Where I found it, somewhere in the vast inundated prairie region north of the Everglades, it was floating free (exactly like *Pistia* and

*Azolla*) in water ten feet deep. The fronds are arranged in rosettes, each having roots of its own. The young ones are central, of the usual crosier shape and the spongy stipes bear a few hyaline, cup-shaped scales.

*Cheilanthes microphylla* I have not found in a second locality, although I have explored 200 miles of the eastern coast of Florida pretty thoroughly. In October I revisited its station and found it much better developed than last year, when the weather was extremely dry. I secured all the fruiting specimens and will distribute them. I decline to make selections of less than 100 specimens, except in the case of these twelve ferns, which are put up in uniform sets, with printed labels, and sold for \$1.20. For packing and postage 30 cents additional is charged on any number of sets sent to one address.—

A. H. CURTISS, *Jacksonville, Fla.*

FERN ETCHINGS by John Williamson, author of FERNS OF KENTUCKY. Louisville: John P. Morton & Co. Ed. 1.—A little more than a year ago appeared the modest "Ferns of Kentucky" illustrated by lithographic plates transferred from etchings by Mr. Williamson, the author of the work. Many of these plates were quite excellent and still more showed that had the original copper plates been used the results would have been much more satisfactory, as the delicacy of the etchings were lost by the process of transferring.

Mr. Williamson himself seems to have appreciated this fact, for in his new work we have the etchings themselves, printed in most cases in a very beautiful manner.

The volume, which is about 8x10 inches, contains plates of sixty-eight Ferns, natives of the United States, which is about one-half of the species known to inhabit this area. The description of each species will be found opposite the plate and has been taken from the works of Prof. Gray and Prof. Eaton. The very best of the plates of the "Ferns of Kentucky" are used in this volume, but these are but few. By far the larger portion are entirely new, while the others are the same species as in the former book from vastly improved plates. It would be impossible to select any particular plates to mention as best, for all are so perfect. The smaller species of ferns are of course best represented, as the entire plant can be brought within the compass of the page. The larger ferns are excellent but it is to be regretted that they should not have been etched on larger coppers, as the excellence of the portions of them which are given creates a desire for the whole.